Brackishwater Aquaculture issued by the Ministry of agriculture, Govt. of India.

5 (iii) Government of India should formulate and issue Guidelines for freshwater aquaculture.

6 (i) All States may implement and complete the scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries Statistics during the Ninth Five Year Plan so that accurate data of production from inland fishery resources could be compiled.

6 (ii) The survey on assessment of fish production in Fish Farmer's Development Agencies (FFDAs) may be carried out by all the States and Union Territory of Pondicherry from 1996-97 onwards.

Para-Military Forces

2641 SHRI A.C. JOS
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to raise two Para-Military Battalions for BSF and CRPF by recruiting surrendered militants of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the raising of 1 Bn. each of the BSF and CRPF which would provide an opportunity of recruitment to the surrendered militants in Jammu and Kashmir. The estimated expenditure on this account will be Rs. 68.53 crore. The concerned organisations and the State Government have been advised to take action further for raising these Battalions expeditiously.

Prices of Coconut

2642 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a steep fall in the prices of coconut;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to arrest the decline in its prices and also to ensure remunerative prices for the coconut?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The wholesale price index of copra during the week ending 16.11.1996 (the latest) has been 29.4 per cent higher compared to the corresponding period last year. The ruling market prices of copra are also ruling above the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) announced by the Government for the 1996 season.

[Translation]

Programmes for Minority

2643 SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) details of the programmes implemented for the welfare of minorities in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Union Government are monitoring the implementation of various programmes for the welfare of minorities in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount spent on these programmes in the State during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The following programmes are being implemented for the welfare of minorities all over the country including the State of Maharashtra :

(i) the pre-examination Coaching Scheme for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria is being implemented since 1992-93 for the target group consisting of minorities and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes with a annual income of Rs. 24,000/- per annum.

(ii) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation is providing loan facilities since September 1994 at concessional rate of interest to the backward sections among minorities. The NMDFC implements its Scheme through the State Channelising agencies. Name of such agency in Maharashtra is Mahatma Phule Backward Classes Financial Corporation.

(iii) The Scheme of Multi-sectoral Development Plan is being implemented in the minority concentration districts with a view to asesess the requrements of credit, technological, training and marketing support required for carrying out such activities and the means through which they can be arranged. This Scheme is implemented through the concerned State Govts.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Welfare monitors the progress of the implementation of Pre-examination Coaching Scheme on the basis of quarterly reports submitted to the Ministry by the voluntary organisations engaged in coaching activities through the State Government of Maharashtra.

The National Minorities Development Finance Corporation being the apex body monitors the functioning of the State Channelising Agency i.e. Mahatma Phule Backward Clasess Financial Development Corporation

The Multi-sectoral Plan Development Scheme is a new Scheme and an amount of Rs 2.00 lakhs was disbursed to the Government of Maharashtra during 1995-96. Report from the State Government is awaited

(d) During the current financial year till date the amount spent in the State of Maharashtra on these Schemes is nil.

[English]

Assistance for Fodder Banks

2644. SHRI SANAT MEHTA: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial assistance given to each State under the Centrally sponsored scheme viz 'Assistance to State for Feed and Fodder Development' to establish Fodder Banks during 1995-1996 and the current year;

(b) the criteria for giving the said assistance and

(c) the amount spent by each State under this Scheme during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Financial assistance was provided to the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissaduring 1995-96 to establish fodder banks to the tune of Rs. 15.769 lakhs, Rs. 15.00 lakhs and Rs 40.50 lakhs respectively. During the current year no financial assistance has been provided to any State so far.

(b) Assistance is provided on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments.

(c) Out of the above assistance provided, Rs 15.769 lakhs and Rs. 9.225 lakhs have been spent by the State of Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka respectively during 1995-96. Fund utilisation certificate from the State of Orissa is awaited.

Decline in Rice Production

2645. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Stress on increase in rice production" as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated October 3, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the production of rice in the country have fallen considerably during the past few years;

(c) if so, the factors responsible for such shortfall;

(d) whether the prices of various varieties of rice have also gone high and the exports have also increased; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to keep its prices stable?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes Sir

(b) and (c) The production of rice has shown a rising trend since 1988-89 except some decline during 1992-93 and 1995-96, which is mainly attributed to unfavourable rainfall and weather conditions and low and imbalanced use of fertilizers.

(d) and (e) The prices of rice have risen moderately which are in tune with the general price rise. The export of rice, on the other hand, has shown an impressive growth particularly during 1995-96. The Government has taken steps to keep the prices of rice stable through demand and supply management by ensuring supplies at fair price shops under PDS. An Integrated Cereal Development Programme is being implemented to improve the production and availability of rice

Welfare of Tribal Youth

2646. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a self-employment training programme for the tribal youth under the TRYSEM Programme was recently conducted by the Government in Godhra and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such programmes conducted in Gujarat during the last three years and the number of tribal youth benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) Under TRYSEM training to upgrade technical and entrepreneurial skill is imparted to the families living below poverty line to enable them to take up gainful self/wage employment. Minimum of 50% of selected youth should belong to SC/ST communities. The programme is implemented in all the districts of the country including Godhra and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat.

As per guidelines on IRDP and allied programmes of TRYSEM and DWCRA, TRYSEM training programmes are organised by each DRDA under the guidance of the governing bodies of DRDAs as per the approved District Annual Plan. However, monitoring is done on combined basis for SCs/STs youth on State as a whole basis.